



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION AND MOA BETWEEN TDVS AND NVLSP

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RICK SPATARO 



- Director of Training and Publications
- Has practiced Veterans Law since 2004 at CAVC, Federal Circuit, and BVA
- Veterans Benefits Manual Editor
- Former Managing Attorney of NVLSP's *Nehmer* Lawsuit Division

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RON ABRAMS 



- Special Counsel / Past Joint Executive Director of NVLSP
- 46 years of Veterans Law experience
- Trained tens of thousands of veterans advocates
- Veterans Benefits Manual Editor

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ALEXIS IVORY 



- Senior Staff Attorney, NVLSP Training Dept.
- Previously served as Counsel to Board of Veterans' Appeals
- Helped develop NVLSP's VA Benefit Identifier App
- Veterans Benefits Manual Author

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WHAT IS NVLSP? 

- Nonprofit Veterans Service Organization
- Founded in 1981
- Works to ensure that the gov't delivers to Vets and active duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service

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WHAT IS NVLSP? 

- Individual representation at CAVC, Federal Circuit, other courts
- Class actions / High-impact litigation

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WHAT IS NVLSP?



- In-person trainings
- Webinars
 - 10 per year on different topics in veterans law
 - Library of past webinars
- Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits

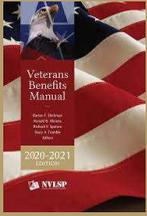


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WHAT IS NVLSP?



- Veterans Benefits Manual
- Federal Veterans Laws, Rules and Regulations
- Automated Veterans Benefits Forms



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HTTPS://PRODUCTSBYNVLSP.ORG





Publications

NVLSP and Lexipol are proud to provide you with several comprehensive training resources including the nation's leading treatise on veterans law, the Veterans Benefits Manual.

Learn More



Webinars

NVLSP offers continuous live and on-demand training and professional development programs for which you can earn CEU's. Register, view recordings, and ask questions to support veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Learn More



Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits

The Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits is designed for anyone who needs information on the basic elements of the benefits process from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Learn More

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WHAT IS NVLSP?

- **Lawyers Serving Warriors – free legal assistance through network of volunteer attorneys:**
 - Discharge upgrades
 - CRSC applications
 - Applications to BCMRs for Vets wrongfully discharged for personality disorder or adjustment disorder
 - Applications to BCMRs for Vets seeking disability retirement
 - Assistance with VA denials of SC for disabilities due to MST
 - Applications to the PDBR for an increase in military disability rating to attain a permanent disability retirement
 - Representation for svc members being processed through IDES

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WHAT IS NVLSP?

- **NVLSP VA Benefit Identifier App**
 - Helps Vets and VSOs figure out what VA disability benefits they might be entitled to
 - **3 WAYS to Access:**

app.nvlsp.org



Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON



Google play

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MOA

- In June 2019, NVLSP and TDVS entered into a 2-year MOA
- In June 2021, NVLSP and TDVS continued their partnership with another 2-year MOA



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CAVC REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP provides pro bono representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) to appellants represented by TDVS who were erroneously denied benefits by the BVA
- VA POA stays with TDVS while case at CAVC

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CAVC REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP attorneys are accredited by TDVS
- TDVS identifies TDVS BVA decisions for NVLSP
- NVLSP screens decisions to identify BVA errors
- NVLSP offers pro bono representation to claimant
 - Letter to client w/ TDVS letter of introduction
 - Copy to TDVS

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CAVC REPRESENTATION

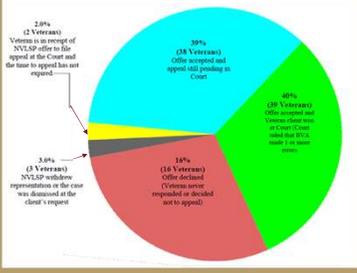
- Closing case
 - Closing letter
 - Advice for remand proceedings
 - Copy of JMR / CAVC decision
 - Copy to TDVS
 - Kathryn Held and Travis Murphy

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CAVC REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP has offered to represent 98 TDVS Vets at CAVC:



Percentage	Number of Veterans	Outcome
39%	198	Offer accepted and appeal will proceed to Court
40%	203	Offer accepted but Veterans chose not to appeal
16%	81	Offer declined (Veteran never responded or decided not to appeal)
3.8%	3	NVLSP withdrew representation or the case was dismissed at the client's request
2.6%	12	Veterans in range of offer to file appeal at the Court and the issue to appeal has not arisen

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BVA REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP will find pro bono attorney to assist TDVS at BVA for some cases remanded by CAVC:
 - BVA likely to make decision without further remand
 - Pro bono attorney NVLSP-trained and VA-accredited attorney in LSW pro bono network

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BVA REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP will contact client for permission
- NVLSP will inform TDVS if claimant agrees
- TDVS keeps POA

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 **BVA REPRESENTATION**

- Pro bono attorney will
 - Gather lay statements, if necessary/possible
 - Obtain medical opinion, if necessary/possible
 - Draft BVA brief
- NVLSP will mentor pro bono attorney

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 **BVA REPRESENTATION**

- To date, 2 TDVS cases have been placed in this program
 - 1 resulted in BVA granting TDIU for the entire period on appeal
 - 1 resulted in a remand for additional development by the RO

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 **TRAINING**

- Annual training
- 4 free webinar-series webinars selected by TDVS
- Consultation with senior TDVS officials about legal issues, advocacy strategy, individual VA benefits claims

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QUESTIONS



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